Overview

BP Canada Energy Group ULC ("BP") is proposing to conduct exploration drilling activities within the areas of offshore exploration licences (ELs) that BP operates in the Orphan Basin, approximately 343 to 496 kilometres northeast of St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador. The Newfoundland Orphan Basin Exploration Drilling Program may involve drilling up to 20 exploration wells between 2020 and 2026 with an initial well planned for 2020, pending regulatory approval. Specific wellsite locations are not yet known but drilling operations will be conducted within the defined boundaries of ELs 1145, 1146, 1148, and/or 1149.
Project Status


The EIS describes the proposed drilling program activities and potential environmental and social impacts, as well as associated mitigation proposed to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. It considers activities such as drilling, testing and abandonment of wells, discharges and emissions, supply and servicing operations (vessels and helicopters), and potential accidental events. The EIS includes drill waste dispersion modelling, oil spill trajectory modelling, and an underwater sound assessment to help assess potential environmental effects.

BP is planning to conduct video transects along the seafloor at prospective wellsites in the West Orphan Basin in 2019. This survey, which requires authorization from the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, will be conducted using a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) and will help characterize the benthic conditions (including the presence of corals and sponges) in the project area to inform well planning and migration.

BP will provide opportunities for businesses and people of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Canada to participate in, and benefit from the activities associated with the Project. BP has started its procurement process for the Project, posting Expression of Interests on various websites including NOIA (www.noia.ca), Maritime Energy Association (www.maritimesenergy.com) and BIDS (www.bids.ca).

Indigenous & Stakeholder Engagement

BP recognizes the importance of early and ongoing Indigenous and stakeholder engagement that continues over the life of the project. In late 2017, we initiated discussions with Indigenous communities, fisheries stakeholders, and regulatory agencies to introduce our proposed exploration drilling program and to obtain early feedback on interests and concerns. During 2018 we followed up with these groups to provide more information on our project and the EIS and obtain feedback on how best to engage and address issues and concerns as we advance project planning.

How to Contact Us

We believe communication is key to building and maintaining relationships with the communities within which we operate. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us.

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